



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY & FINANCING

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Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor • Joan Henneberry, Executive Director

Legislative Update, Week of February 19, 2010

The Department's fourth and final bill for the 2010 session was introduced this week. Senate bill 167, Medicaid Efficiency and False Claims, sponsored by Senator Boyd and Representative Riesberg, combines a number of efficiencies aimed at strengthening our programs and processes in Medicaid. Some elements include: a state false claims act, which allows the Department to achieve a greater share from Qui Tam (whistleblower) and overpayment recoveries paid by the federal government; a Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) that will automatically check provider claim requests to determine if they include contradictory service codes, which will help mitigate a time-consuming and complicated review process which locates the error after the fact; and an internal audit unit to assure compliance with the Department's many responsibilities to the state and federal government. It will be heard before House Health and Human Service Committee Thursday, February 25th. Bob Douglas and David Smith will be providing testimony on behalf of the Department.

SB10-129, Concerning Care Coordination Services for Children with Autism, sponsored by Senator Hudak and Representative Rice was heard in committee on Wednesday this week and passed on a vote of 7:0. This proposed legislation would allow for more case management options for HCBS Children with Autism Waiver. It expands the current language, which designates Community Centered Boards (CCBs) as the Single Entry Point (SEP), to include CCBs, SEPs, or other department-approved case management agency. It will be heard on Senate Second Reading on Monday, February 22nd.

On Thursday in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, Senator Williams presented SB10-132, Medicaid Hospice Room and Board, also sponsored by Representative Riesberg. This bill directs the Department to negotiate agreements with suppliers of high-quality durable medical equipment and medical supplies so that persons receiving public medical benefits or who are on a waiting list for the benefits can purchase high-quality equipment and supplies at the lowest cost. The bill passed 6:1 and was sent to the Appropriations committee with a favorable recommendation.

HB10-1043 was introduced in the Senate this week after passing out of the House Committee on Health and Human Services, as well as second and third readings. With this proposal, the Department is seeking to realign the State Plan and the Colorado Revised Statutes to mirror existing operations of the Family Medicaid program, which is to disregard \$90 per month, per person whose earned income is used to determine program eligibility.

For additional information please contact Ginny Brown at 303-815-0652 or Nicole Storm at 303 748-5310